



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Council Meeting, 10.15am, 16 July 2005, at Monyash Village Hall

PRESENT:	<u>Officers:</u>	Chairman DCA	Bob Dearman [BD]
		Secretary/Treasurer:	Jenny Potts [JP]
		Access Officer:	Iain Barker [IB]
		N/L Editor / Publications Officer:	Paul Lydon [PL]
		Assistant Secretary:	Chris Broome [CB]
	<u>Clubs:</u>	Orpheus Caving Club	Boyd Potts [BP], Dave Jones [DJ], Mick Hogg [MH] (Jenny Potts)
		Masson Caving Group	(Chris Broome)
		T.S.G.	Wayne Sheldon
	<u>Individual Members:</u>		Terry Jackson [TJ], Tony Gibbs [TG], (Bob Dearman, Dave Jones, Jenny Potts, Wayne Sheldon)
	<u>Observer:</u>		Lois Gibbs

1. APOLOGIES / QUORUM:

- 1.1 Confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- 1.2 Apologies received from: Dave Webb, Dave Cowley, Pete Mellors, Nigel Atkins, J.Sephton, K.Slatcher, R.Johnson (Crewe C.P.C.), H.Lomas (Orpheus C.C.) S.Gibbs.

2. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 16TH. APRIL 2005: (Previously circulated & on website) *That these be accepted as a correct record. Prop. TJ, sec. BP. Agreed unanimously.*

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 16TH. APRIL 2005:

- 3.1 8.2 Derbyshire Sport, Youth Activities Day: Postponed to 2006.
- 3.2 8.7 Planning Applications Watch: Agreed best to delegate to a number of members to keep a check on each planning authority area and watch local websites: Derbyshire Dales/Matlock - Chris Broome; High Peak - Terry Jackson; Staffs. Moorlands - suggested Eldon P.C. members in the area might do this (BD would contact them); Peak Park - John Barnatt was suggested. Noted that any queries or items of interest to DCA should be notified to John Taylor.
- 3.3 8.6 Otter Hole: BD reported that a new planning application was being put forward for higher density housing on the site. A meeting of the Planning Committee was due in early August and objections were being put forward by local residents, DCA, EN and others. Noted that there was a large catchment area and an undeveloped system giving a likelihood of flash floods - a point being publicised. Noted the site was a RIGS but not an SSSI.

4. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Individual Member: **Alan Brentnall** - Prop. Crewe C.P.C., J.Potts, P.Lydon. *Accepted unanimously.*

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

5.1 SECRETARY/TREASURER: (Written report tabled)

- a. Circulations: JP noted that she had also circulated a Training Events Flyer for the Cavers Workshop in May.
- b. Financial arrangements: JP noted that we continued to maintain the maximum amount in our bank deposit account but that D.Webb needs a substantial float in order to pay cash quickly for materials and hire of items for each major conservation project. She is happy that this is always accounted for satisfactorily when the work is complete.
- c. Publications: The Manifold/Hamps Cave Conservation Audit was selling very well and it was clear it would easily cover costs. Suggested that flyers for the publication could be sent to RIGS groups, the Stone Centre, Pooles Cavern, Hulme End Information Centre, etc. Suggested also that DCA produce a single flyer/order form for all its publications. JP would deal with this.
- d. Cavers Workshop: This had gone well and we expected to receive a grant from BCA.
- e. Bank Interest: We had received £27.00 interest on our bank deposit account for the last quarter.
That the Secretary/Treasurer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. C.Broome. Agreed unanimously.

5.2 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER: (Apologies sent, written report tabled.)

- a. National Trust: JP noted the National Trust meeting had agreed on a relatively informal arrangement for access agreements, which we felt was to everyone's benefit.
- b. DCA insurance: There was a general discussion on the future of the DCA insurance. The matter of whether this continued into 2006 would need to be decided in good time to notify those presently insured through DCA; preferably this decision should be made not later than the DCA Council meeting on 22nd. October.
That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec.T.Gibbs. Agreed unanimously.

5.3 CONSERVATION OFFICER: (Apologies sent, written report tabled.)

- a. Knotlow problems: JP noted that again there were reports of bad air in Mendip caves this summer - the problem was not confined to the Peak District.
RD reported that EA will be placing a data logger in Knotlow in a position yet to be decided. Noted also that generally village water treatment has improved greatly in the last few years.
TJ noted that farming practices may be changing within the next 4 years because of legislation & other pressures and this may greatly improve the situation.

TG suggested that it might be possible for cavers to use a simple CO₂ detector which would show an LED warning light.

- b. Bats: It was generally felt by those who had attended that the "Workshop on Bats" evening meeting had been very useful.
- c. Project Co-ordinator: The need for a Project Co-ordinator to take on the work currently being undertaken by the Conservation Officer himself was accepted. The excellent work done by Dave Webb and the commitment in time this required was acknowledged. Wayne Sheldon volunteered to take on the post.

That Wayne Sheldon be co-opted as Project Officer, the post being part of the Conservation & Access Team.
Prop. J.Potts, sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

JP suggested that it would be useful to have an informal meeting between herself, as Treasurer, WS, DW and BD before the next project was undertaken to ensure everyone was agreed on procedures and guidelines.

That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. C.Broome, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously*

5.4 ACCESS OFFICER: *(Written report tabled.)*

- a. IB reported that all appeared to be going well at present.
- b. Ecton Mines: TG asked about the current access situation at Ecton Mines - reported that the mines remained closed following the death of Geoff Cox. BD will make enquiries.

That the Access Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

5.5 EQUIPMENT OFFICER: *(Apologies sent, written report tabled.)*

- a. Training: Noted that a training session for Bolt Installers is now being set up and things are moving.
- b. Test Kit: BD noted that the Test Kit on permanent loan from BCA was with DC in Sheffield.
- c. Maillons in Giants: Noted that the maillons had again been removed from the Eco-anchors above the climb down from Upper Series to Crabwalk. Alternative systems less susceptible to misuse and thieving were to be investigated.
- d. Giants Traverses: Noted that, with the closely spaced series of Eco-anchors protecting the Traverses, handline ropes were often left in place by persons unknown. DCA could not be responsible for these and it was felt they posed a potential danger in a cave much used by by inexperienced cavers who would not appreciate the necessity of checking the condition of the handlines before using them. Alternatives would be investigated.

That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. C.Broome, sec. D.Jones. *Agreed unanimously.*

5.6 TRAINING OFFICER: *(Not present, no written report.)*

- a. JP had spoken to N.Atkins and reported on his behalf that the Cavers Workshop had gone well and that he was working with the Equipment Officer to arrange a Bolt Installation Training Day.
- b. JP had attended the PICA AGM and reported that Bryan Hartshorn was continuing as Chairman and Suzanne Pearson had taken over as Secretary.

5.7 N/L EDITOR, PUBLICATIONS OFFICER:

- a. N/L 122: PL apologised for its late appearance which was due to a hard drive failure - the N/L had been virtually complete and he had had to re-do it. He hoped to have No. 123 ready in September/October.
- b. Website: Noted that N/L 122 is now on the website - thanks to Paul Johnson, the DCA webmaster, and Paul Lydon.

That the Newsletter Editor's Report be accepted. Prop. C.Broome, sec. M.Hogg. *Agreed unanimously.*

6. BCA MATTERS:

JP reported on the BCA Council meeting held on 11 June. The point raised re. the voting rights of members of BCA Member Clubs not insured under the BCA scheme had been raised and the BCA Insurance Manager, Nick Williams, had investigated the position. JP quoted his expert opinion as provided in a written report to BCA Council. It was accepted that those BCA Member Clubs which did not insure their members under the BCA scheme had voting rights as Club Members but their individual members had no voting rights as "Club Individual Members". DCA members present accepted the ruling and the reasons for it but felt it was an unfortunate situation which affected some other clubs, not just those insured under the DCA scheme.

7. NEXT MEETING:

JP confirmed that the Village Hall was already booked for 10am. on 22 October 2005 for the Council Meeting. It was also booked for the DCA AGM 10am. on Sat. 25 February 2006..

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

8.1 Peak Park Consultation Document:

JP had responded to the Peak Park Consultation Document although much of it was not directly relevant to caving.

8.2 Caves of the Peak District:

BD reported that Sam Townsend had now dropped out of the project and the publication of CoPD was now in the hands of himself, IB and John Beck.

IB reported that he had emailed all DCA members, DESCENT magazine, Hitch 'n' Hike website, UK rec. caving, etc. asking for information and updates to the 1991 edition. He had received plenty of responses.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to contact either BD or IB, who will pass it on to John Beck.

It was noted that the 1991 edition was originally intended to be A5 sized but at the last minute Dalesman had reduced the page size. We felt this reduced size had been too small to allow clear maps and surveys. It was felt that simplified surveys of major caves should be included. After a general discussion on format, size, type of cover, etc. it was agreed that the new "Caves of County Clare", which was

available for members to inspect, seemed to be a good model to follow with a page size between A5 and A4. BD would seek information from those responsible for its production.

During further discussion it was agreed that "CoPD" should be considered a "reference book" which, as far as possible, would not go out of date for a number of years and which contained general descriptions of caves, surveys where appropriate, area location maps, grid references, details of pitch lengths (but not rigging details) and some general notes on access (but not detailed instructions, addresses, etc.) In contrast, it was felt that the DCA Handbook was the appropriate place for detailed notes on access, contacts and specific rigging details and other information which was likely to change relatively often. The two publications should be designed to cross reference to each other and it was accepted that this would mean that the DCA Handbook would need considerable revision.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.30pm.

J. E. Potts, Recorder

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM IS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT:

Officers' Reports to the DCA Council Meeting, 16 July 2005:

- a. Item 5.1 Secretary/Treasurer's Report.
- b. Item 5.2 Legal & Insurance Officer's Report.
- c. Item 5.3 Conservation Officer's Report.
- d. Item 5.4 Access Officer's Report.
- e. Item 5.5 Equipment Officer's Report.
- f. Item 6 Extract from BCA Insurance Manager's Report to BCA Council on 11 June 2005